



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRANDON BARNES
SHERIFF – CORONER

DATE: June 25, 2019
TO: Michael Johnson, Foreman, Sutter County Grand Jury
FR: Sheriff Brandon Barnes
SUBJECT: 2018-2019 Grand Jury Response

ENDORSED FILED

SEP 26 2019

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

As a newly elected Sheriff, I wanted to express my appreciation of the Grand Jury and the role they play in helping to bring deficiencies to our attention and guiding the Office of the Sheriff to provide better services to our community. I have reviewed the proposed report and offer the following responses to both the "Findings" and the "Recommendations" suggested by the Grand Jury.

SUTTER COUNTY JAIL

FINDINGS:

F1 The GED class is currently not available to inmates because there is no instructor.

F1 Response: The Sheriff's Office disagrees with the finding. The Sheriff's Office does not deny this has been a challenge in the past, however as of 06-17-19, the Sheriff's Office is receiving services through the Sutter County One Stop. A GED instructor is on site teaching GED courses 3 days per week.

F2 Lack of classroom space limits class availability.

F2 Response: The Sheriff's Office disagrees with the finding. Both the main jail and the minimum-security facility have adequate classroom space. Additionally, the AB900 jail expansion project includes an additional (third) classroom for inmate programs. The Sheriff's Office has also entered into a contract for jail tablets, to provide additional educational and entertainment options for the inmates.

F3 Inmates are routinely transported between the medium security facility and the main jail through an unsecured area.

F3 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F4 The alley at the south side of the Sheriff's Office is unsecured and accessible to the public.

F4 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.



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RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1 An instructor for the GED class should be found and GED classes resumed.

R1 Response: The recommendation has been implemented. As of 06-27-19, the Sheriff's Office is receiving services through the Sutter County One Stop. A GED instructor is on site teaching GED courses 3 days per week.

R2 Find and dedicate classroom space for offered courses.

R2 Response: The recommendation has been implemented. There are currently two classrooms dedicated to inmate programming, one in the main jail and one in the minimum-security facility. Additionally, a third classroom will be implemented with the completion of the AB900 projects in July of 2019. This will allow for ample programming space. The Sheriff's Office has also entered into a contract for jail tablets to provide additional educational and entertainment options for the inmates.

R3 A secured fence with an automatic gate should be installed between the Sheriff's Office and the medium jail facility by January 1, 2020.

R3 Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff recognizes the security concerns on the exterior of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Budget cannot solely support a project of this type. The Sheriff is working with the interim County CAO and the Director of Developmental Services for potential solutions. The goal is to find a funding source during the 19/20 fiscal year with hopes of implementing construction of the exterior fencing and automatic gates in the 20/21 fiscal year.

R4 A secured automatic gate should be installed at the entrance to the alley on the south side of the Sheriff's Department Building by January 1, 2020.

R4 Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff recognizes the security concerns on the exterior of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Budget cannot solely support a project of this type. The Sheriff is working with the interim County CAO and the Director of Developmental Services for potential solutions. The goal is to find a funding source during the 19/20 fiscal year with hopes of implementing construction of the exterior fencing and automatic gates in the 20/21 fiscal year.



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SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
SAFETY (FOR OTHERS) FIRST

FINDINGS:

F1 There is insufficient storage space for evidence and property.

F1 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F2 Evidence tracking practices are inadequate.

F2 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F3 Chain of Command over evidence has not been trained in evidence handling and procedures.

F3 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F4 There are insufficient in-house auditing practices for evidence and/or property.

F4 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F5 There is no annual independent audit of evidence and property.

F5 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F6 The current computer system and evidence tracking software is severely outdated.

F6 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F7 There is no secured parking for Sheriff's Department and personnel.

F7 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1 The evidence room should be expanded or relocated and meet the standards put forth by the IAPE no later than December 2020.

R1 Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. To properly manage the storage of property, the evidence system would require the building of a new structure. This is beyond the means of the Sheriff's Office budget and would require a cost analysis and approval of funding by the Board of Supervisors. When this report becomes public,



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the Sheriff will discuss options with the interim CAO and recommend a plan for improvement within the 19/20 fiscal year.

- R2 Property Officers of the Evidence Unit need to attend the Property and Evidence Management classes.

R2 Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. We agree that advanced training would be beneficial for those assigned to evidence. A search of the California POST courses lists an evidence management course (#32903) provided by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, but there are currently no dates assigned to this course. The Sheriff's Office will monitor this course for availability soon. Staff will be scheduled for training when it becomes available through POST.

- R3 Chain of Command of the Evidence Unit need to attend the Property and Evidence Management classes by December of 2019.

R3 Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Sheriff's Office agrees additional training is necessary for those in the chain of command that oversee evidence. A search of the California POST courses lists an evidence management course (#32903) provided by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, but there are currently no dates assigned to this course. The Sheriff's Office will monitor this course for availability soon. Staff will be scheduled for training when it becomes available through POST.

- R4 Auditing practices should be developed and implemented by December 2020.

R4 Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Sheriff's Office agrees auditing practices need to be improved and will be taking steps to develop policy on this topic. Policy and implementation will be completed by December of 2020, as recommended.

- R5 An independent auditing agency should be contracted to perform annual audits of evidence and property within one (1) year.

R5 Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff's Office will have to locate and contract with a company that provides this level of external audit. Our ability to complete the audit will be dictated by the proposed cost and our ability to secure a funding source for the audit. We fully support this recommendation but will need to evaluate the cost. This evaluation will take place by the end of calendar year 2019.



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R6 The current computer system and evidence tracking software needs to be upgraded to meet industry standards as soon as possible but no later than January 2022.

R6 Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Sheriff's Office agrees that improvements in this area need to be made. We have already reviewed two separate products, Central Square and FileonQ, both of which have evidence management systems. The Sheriff's Office has been working with County IT to determine the best product for our needs and we have located potential funding sources for this project. We are hoping for implementation in the 19/20 fiscal year.

R7 A secure, designated parking area that includes privacy fencing needs to be provided for Sheriff's employees and deputy patrol units by December 2021.

R7 Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff recognizes the security concerns on the exterior of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Budget cannot solely support a project of this type. The Sheriff is working with the interim County CAO and the Director of Developmental Services for potential solutions. The goal is to find a funding source during the 19/20 fiscal year with hopes of implementing construction of the exterior fencing and automatic gates in the 20/21 fiscal year.

The Sheriff's Office is grateful for the recommendations of the Grand Jury. We feel we have an exemplary staff but regrettably have financial limitations like most agencies of our size. We will work to improve in the areas noted and continue to build upon our successes. If the Grand Jury would like to discuss any of these issues in greater detail, please feel free to contact the Office of the Sheriff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Barnes", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Barnes
Sheriff-Coroner

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2019

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER